

Union Calendar No. 401

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8416

[Report No. 117-560, Part I]

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2022

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Committees on Financial Services and Small Business discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 19, 2022]

A BILL

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal
Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the “Dis-*
 5 *aster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022”.*

6 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
 7 *this Act is as follows:*

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*
- Sec. 2. Information sharing for Federal agencies.*
- Sec. 3. Universal application for individual assistance.*
- Sec. 4. Repair and rebuilding.*
- Sec. 5. Direct assistance.*
- Sec. 6. State-managed housing pilot authority.*
- Sec. 7. Management costs.*
- Sec. 8. Post-disaster housing study.*
- Sec. 9. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.*
- Sec. 10. Individual assistance dashboard.*
- Sec. 11. FEMA reports.*
- Sec. 12. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.*
- Sec. 13. Duplication of benefits.*
- Sec. 14. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.*
- Sec. 15. Applicability.*

8 (c) *DEFINITIONS.*—*Except as otherwise provided, the*
 9 *terms used in this Act have the meanings given such terms*
 10 *in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
 11 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).*

12 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

13 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION*
 14 *SHARING SYSTEM.*—

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator of the Fed-*
 16 *eral Emergency Management Agency shall establish*
 17 *and maintain a web-based interagency electronic in-*

1 *formation sharing system, to be known as*
2 *“DisasterAssistance.gov”, to—*

3 *(A) facilitate the administration of the uni-*
4 *versal application for Federal disaster assistance*
5 *established under section 3;*

6 *(B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-*
7 *sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably,*
8 *and in accordance with applicable laws, regula-*
9 *tions, and the privacy and data protections pro-*
10 *vided under this section; and*

11 *(C) detect, prevent, and investigate waste,*
12 *fraud, abuse, or discrimination in the adminis-*
13 *tration of disaster assistance programs.*

14 *(2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In es-*
15 *tablishing and maintaining the electronic informa-*
16 *tion sharing system under this subsection, the Admin-*
17 *istrator may collect and maintain disaster assistance*
18 *information received from a disaster assistance agen-*
19 *cy or an applicant for a disaster assistance program*
20 *and share such information with any other disaster*
21 *assistance agency using such electronic information*
22 *sharing system.*

23 *(b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facili-*
24 *tate the collection of disaster assistance information into*
25 *the electronic information sharing system established under*

1 *this section only after the following requirements have been*
2 *met:*

3 (1) *The Administrator certifies that the elec-*
4 *tronic information sharing system substantially com-*
5 *plies with the data security standards and best prac-*
6 *tices of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-*
7 *nology.*

8 (2) *The Secretary of Homeland Security pub-*
9 *lishes a privacy impact assessment for the electronic*
10 *information sharing system, in accordance with sec-*
11 *tion 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6*
12 *U.S.C. 142).*

13 (3) *The Administrator publishes standard rules*
14 *of behavior for disaster assistance agencies and per-*
15 *sonnel granted access to disaster assistance informa-*
16 *tion to protect such information from improper dis-*
17 *closure.*

18 (c) *COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL*
19 *RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—*

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-*
21 *thorize the collection, maintenance, sharing, and use*
22 *of additional disaster assistance information by pub-*
23 *lishing a notice on DisasterAssistance.gov that in-*
24 *cludes a detailed description of—*

1 (A) *the specific amendments to the collec-*
2 *tion, maintenance, and sharing of disaster as-*
3 *stance information authorized;*

4 (B) *why each such amendment to how dis-*
5 *aster assistance information is collected, main-*
6 *tained, or shared is necessary to carry out the*
7 *purposes of a disaster assistance program and*
8 *consistent with the fair information practice*
9 *principles; and*

10 (C) *the disaster assistance agencies that will*
11 *be granted access to the additional information*
12 *to carry out the purposes of any disaster assist-*
13 *ance program.*

14 (2) *NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—*
15 *The publication of a notice under paragraph (1) of a*
16 *revision to the DisasterAssistance.gov system of*
17 *records prior to any new collection, or uses, of Pri-*
18 *vacancy Act categories of records, to carry out the pur-*
19 *poses of a disaster assistance program with regard to*
20 *a disaster declared by the President under section 401*
21 *or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
22 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191),*
23 *shall be deemed to satisfy the notice and publication*
24 *requirements of section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United*
25 *States Code, for the 90-day period beginning on the*

1 *date on which the publication under paragraph (1) is*
2 *made.*

3 (3) *WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION RE-*
4 *QUIREMENTS.—*

5 (A) *IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of*
6 *a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-*
7 *tions 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-*
8 *aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
9 *U.S.C. 5170; 5191), the President may direct the*
10 *Administrator to waive the requirements of sub-*
11 *chapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States*
12 *Code, with respect to voluntary collection of in-*
13 *formation for the duration of such major disaster*
14 *or emergency.*

15 (B) *TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the*
16 *waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the*
17 *Administrator shall—*

18 (i) *promptly post on a website of the*
19 *Federal Emergency Management Agency a*
20 *brief justification for such waiver, the an-*
21 *ticipated period of time such waiver will be*
22 *in effect, and the agencies and offices within*
23 *the Federal Emergency Management Agency*
24 *to which such waiver shall apply; and*

1 (ii) update the information relating to
2 such waiver, as applicable.

3 (4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION
4 COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
7 Comptroller General of the United States shall
8 issue a report describing the benefits and poten-
9 tial risks associated with authorizing the waiver
10 of the information collection requirements de-
11 scribed in paragraph (3).

12 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required under
13 subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of
14 the extent to which a waiver described in para-
15 graph (3) would—

16 (i) affect the paperwork burden for in-
17 dividuals, small businesses, State, local and
18 tribal governments, and other persons;

19 (ii) affect the consistent application of
20 Federal laws relating to—

21 (I) privacy and confidentiality;

22 (II) security of information; and

23 (III) access to information; and

24 (iii) encourage or deter a State or
25 other entity from participating in the vol-

1 *untary collection of information for the du-*
2 *ration of a major disaster or emergency.*

3 *(d) USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may per-*
5 *mit a Federal agency other than the disaster assist-*
6 *ance agencies listed in subparagraphs (A) through (C)*
7 *of subsection (f)(2) to use the electronic information*
8 *sharing system established under this section for the*
9 *purpose of facilitating disaster-related assistance if*
10 *such agency enters into an agreement containing the*
11 *terms described in paragraph (2).*

12 *(2) AGENCY AGREEMENT.—An agreement be-*
13 *tween the Administrator and another Federal agency*
14 *to use the electronic information sharing system es-*
15 *tablished under this subsection shall contain the fol-*
16 *lowing terms:*

17 *(A) The Federal agency shall—*

18 *(i) collect, share, maintain, and use*
19 *disaster assistance information in compli-*
20 *ance with this section and in substantial*
21 *compliance with the data security standards*
22 *and best practices of the National Institute*
23 *of Standards and Technology; and*

24 *(ii) train any personnel granted access*
25 *to disaster assistance information on the*

1 *rules of behavior established by the Admin-*
2 *istrator under subsection (b)(3).*

3 *(B) In the event of any unauthorized disclo-*
4 *sure of disaster assistance information, the Fed-*
5 *eral agency shall—*

6 *(i) notify the Administrator within 24*
7 *hours of discovering any such unauthorized*
8 *disclosure;*

9 *(ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-*
10 *trator in the investigation and remediation*
11 *of any such disclosure;*

12 *(iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution*
13 *of a person responsible for such disclosure;*
14 *and*

15 *(iv) assume the responsibility for any*
16 *compensation, civil liability, or other reme-*
17 *diation measures, whether awarded by a*
18 *judgment of a court or agreed as a com-*
19 *promise of any potential claims by or on*
20 *behalf of an applicant, including by obtain-*
21 *ing credit monitoring and remediation serv-*
22 *ices, for an improper disclosure that is—*

23 *(I) caused, directly or indirectly,*
24 *by the acts or omissions of officers, em-*

1 *ployees, and contractors of the agency;*
2 *or*

3 *(II) from any electronic system of*
4 *records that is created or maintained*
5 *by the agency pursuant to section*
6 *552a(e) of title 5, United States Code.*

7 *(3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—The*
8 *Administrator shall publish an agency agreement en-*
9 *tered into under this subsection on the same website*
10 *as the electronic information sharing system estab-*
11 *lished under this section.*

12 *(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing of disaster*
13 *assistance information that is subject to the requirements*
14 *of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, by disaster*
15 *assistance agencies shall not—*

16 *(1) be construed as a matching program for pur-*
17 *poses of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or*

18 *(2) be subject to the remaining computer match-*
19 *ing provisions of section 552a of such title.*

20 *(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

21 *(1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant” means—*

22 *(A) a person who applies for disaster assist-*
23 *ance from a disaster assistance program; and*

1 (B) a person on whose behalf a person de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) has applied for dis-
3 aster assistance.

4 (2) *DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.*—The term
5 “disaster assistance agency” means—

6 (A) the Federal Emergency Management
7 Agency;

8 (B) the Department of Housing and Urban
9 Development;

10 (C) the Small Business Administration;

11 (D) the Department of Agriculture; and

12 (E) any other Federal agency that the Ad-
13 ministrators permits to use the electronic infor-
14 mation sharing system under subsection (d).

15 (3) *DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.*—The
16 term “disaster assistance information” includes any
17 personal, biographical, geographical, and financial
18 information that a disaster assistance agency is au-
19 thorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to process
20 an application for disaster assistance or otherwise
21 carry out a disaster assistance program.

22 (4) *DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.*—The term
23 “disaster assistance program” means—

24 (A) any program that provides assistance to
25 individuals and households under title IV or title

1 *V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
2 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et*
3 *seq.); and*

4 *(B) any other assistance program carried*
5 *out by a disaster assistance agency that provides*
6 *assistance to an individual, household, or orga-*
7 *nization related to a major disaster or emergency*
8 *declared under sections 401 or 501 of such Act,*
9 *including—*

10 *(i) disaster assistance, long-term dis-*
11 *aster recovery, post-disaster restoration of*
12 *infrastructure and housing, post-disaster*
13 *economic revitalization, and pre-disaster*
14 *mitigation under title I of the Housing and*
15 *Community Development Act of 1974 (42*
16 *U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);*

17 *(ii) any loan that is authorized under*
18 *section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15*
19 *U.S.C. 636(b)); and*

20 *(iii) the distribution of food benefit al-*
21 *lotments as authorized under section 412 of*
22 *the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
23 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179)*
24 *and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of*
25 *1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).*

1 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE.**

3 (a) *UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.*—*The Administrator of*
4 *the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall develop*
5 *and establish a universal application for Federal disaster*
6 *assistance for individuals in areas impacted by emergencies*
7 *or disasters.*

8 (b) *CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.*—

9 (1) *CONSULTATION.*—*In carrying out this sec-*
10 *tion, the Administrator shall consult with the fol-*
11 *lowing:*

12 (A) *The Director of the Office of Manage-*
13 *ment and Budget.*

14 (B) *The Administrator of the Small Busi-*
15 *ness Administration.*

16 (C) *The Secretary of Housing and Urban*
17 *Development.*

18 (D) *The Secretary of Agriculture.*

19 (2) *SUPPORT.*—*The entities described in para-*
20 *graph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Admin-*
21 *istrator.*

22 (c) *SURVEY.*—*The application established under sub-*
23 *section (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the*
24 *demographic data of an applicant.*

25 (d) *GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND DIS-*
26 *ASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.*—*Not*

1 *later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,*
2 *the Comptroller General of the United States shall—*

3 *(1) conduct an assessment of improper and po-*
4 *tentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for in-*
5 *dividuals made to victims of major disasters declared*
6 *in 2020 and 2021, including through identity theft;*
7 *and*

8 *(2) submit to the Committee on Transportation*
9 *and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives*
10 *and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-*
11 *ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that de-*
12 *scribes—*

13 *(A) the prevalence of improper and poten-*
14 *tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for*
15 *individuals made to registrants who used invalid*
16 *information to apply for disaster assistance, in-*
17 *cluding through identity theft;*

18 *(B) the number of disaster victims whose*
19 *claims for Federal disaster assistance for indi-*
20 *viduals were denied due to another individual*
21 *filing a fraudulent application using their per-*
22 *sonal identifying information;*

23 *(C) the adequacy of existing fraud preven-*
24 *tion protocols in place on the Federal Emergency*

1 *Management Agency’s online application for*
2 *Federal disaster assistance for individuals; and*
3 *(D) recommendations for improving the*
4 *identity verification protocols in place for Fed-*
5 *eral disaster assistance for individuals.*

6 **SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert T.*
8 *Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
9 *U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—*

10 *(1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and in-*
11 *serting “damaged by a major disaster”; and*

12 *(2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of*
13 *damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting*
14 *“damaged by a major disaster”.*

15 *(b) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 408 of the Robert*
16 *T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*
17 *(42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—*

18 *(1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the fol-*
19 *lowing:*

20 *“(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—*

21 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may pro-*
22 *vide financial assistance to individuals and*
23 *households, whose primary residence, utilities, or*
24 *residential infrastructure are damaged by a*
25 *major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitiga-*

1 *tion measures that reduce threats to life and*
 2 *property, or future damage to such residence,*
 3 *utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.*

4 “(B) *RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-*
 5 *ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under*
 6 *this paragraph shall not be required to show that*
 7 *the assistance can be met through other means,*
 8 *except insurance proceeds.”; and*
 9 *(2) in subsection (h)—*

10 *(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, finan-*
 11 *cial assistance for hazard mitigation under sub-*
 12 *section (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection (c)(1)(A)(i)”;*
 13 *and*

14 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

15 “(5) *HAZARD MITIGATION.—The maximum fi-*
 16 *nancial assistance any individual or household may*
 17 *receive under subsection (c)(5) shall be equivalent to*
 18 *the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect to*
 19 *a single major disaster.”.*

20 **SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.**

21 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.*
 22 *Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42*
 23 *U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking paragraph*
 24 *(2) and inserting the following:*

25 “(2) *REPAIRS.—*

1 “(A) *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RE-*
2 *PAIRS.—The President may provide financial*
3 *assistance for the repair of owner-occupied pri-*
4 *vate residences, utilities, and residential infra-*
5 *structure (such as a private access route) dam-*
6 *aged by a major disaster, or with respect to indi-*
7 *viduals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by*
8 *a major disaster.*

9 “(B) *DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—*

10 “(i) *IN GENERAL.—The President may*
11 *provide direct assistance to individuals and*
12 *households who are unable to make use of fi-*
13 *nancial assistance under subparagraph (A)*
14 *and when there is a lack of available re-*
15 *sources, for—*

16 “(I) *the repair of owner-occupied*
17 *private residences, utilities, and resi-*
18 *dential infrastructure (such as a pri-*
19 *vate access route) damaged by a major*
20 *disaster, or with respect to individuals*
21 *with disabilities, rendered inaccessible*
22 *by a disaster; and*

23 “(II) *eligible hazard mitigation*
24 *measures that reduce the likelihood and*

1 *future damage to such residences, utili-*
2 *ties, and infrastructure.*

3 *“(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of as-*
4 *sistance under this subparagraph shall not*
5 *be eligible for assistance under paragraph*
6 *(1), unless otherwise determined by the Ad-*
7 *ministrator.*

8 *“(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-*
9 *ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under*
10 *this paragraph shall not be required to show that*
11 *the assistance can be met through other means,*
12 *except insurance proceeds.”.*

13 *(b) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-ADMINIS-*
14 *TERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—*
15 *Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
16 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) is amend-*
17 *ed—*

18 *(1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and*
19 *(e)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraphs*
20 *(1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and sub-*
21 *section (e)”;* and

22 *(2) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “subsection*
23 *(c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e)” and inserting “paragraph*
24 *(1)(B), (2)(B), or (4) of subsection (c) or subsection*
25 *(e)”.*

1 **SEC. 6. STATE-MANAGED HOUSING PILOT AUTHORITY.**

2 *Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief*
3 *and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amend-*
4 *ed—*

5 *(1) in subsection (f)(3)—*

6 *(A) by striking subparagraph (F);*

7 *(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (G),*
8 *(H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G),*
9 *(H), and (I), respectively; and*

10 *(C) in subparagraph (I), as so redesign-*
11 *ated—*

12 *(i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later*
13 *than 2 years after the date of enactment of*
14 *this paragraph, the” and inserting “The”;*
15 *and*

16 *(ii) in clause (iii) by striking—*

17 *(I) “2 years after the date of en-*
18 *actment of this paragraph or” and*

19 *(II) “, whichever occurs sooner”;*
20 *and*

21 *(2) in subsection (g)—*

22 *(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “para-*
23 *graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and*
24 *(3)”;* *and*

25 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(3) *DISASTER ASSISTANCE.*—*In the case of as-*
2 *sistance provided under subsections (c)(1)(B),*
3 *(c)(2)(B), and (c)(4), the Federal share shall be not*
4 *less than 75 percent.*”.

5 **SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

6 *Section 324(b)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster*
7 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.*
8 *5165b(b)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-*
9 *lowing:*

10 “(C) *INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.*—*A grantee*
11 *under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not more*
12 *than 12 percent of the total award amount under*
13 *each such section.*

14 “(D) *CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE,*
15 *TRAINING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.*—
16 *A grantee and subgrantee, cumulatively, may be*
17 *reimbursed not more than 15 percent of the total*
18 *amount of the grant award under either section*
19 *416 or 426.*”.

20 **SEC. 8. POST-DISASTER HOUSING STUDY.**

21 *(a) IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
22 *of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal*
23 *Emergency Management Agency shall—*

24 (1) *conduct a study and develop a plan under*
25 *which the Agency will address the challenges associ-*

1 (1) *in paragraph (7), by striking the period at*
2 *the end and inserting “; and”; and*

3 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

4 “*(8) post-disaster assistance.*”.

5 (b) *FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-*
6 *ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-*
7 *lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131) is*
8 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

9 “*(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-*
10 *ANCE.—*

11 “*(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the*
12 *Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter*
13 *into a cooperative agreement to provide funding to a*
14 *State agency established under subsection (c) to estab-*
15 *lish and operate a website to provide information re-*
16 *lating to post-disaster recovery funding and resources*
17 *to a community or an individual impacted by a*
18 *major disaster or emergency.*

19 “*(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under*
20 *this subsection shall be—*

21 “*(A) managed by the State agency; and*

22 “*(B) suitable for the residents of the State*
23 *of the State agency.*

24 “*(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may enter*
25 *into a cooperative agreement to establish a website*

1 *under this subsection only to provide 1 or more of the*
2 *following:*

3 “(A) *A list of Federal, State, and local*
4 *sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-*
5 *sistance that may be available to a community*
6 *after a major disaster or emergency.*

7 “(B) *A list of Federal, State, and local*
8 *sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-*
9 *sistance that may be available to an individual*
10 *impacted by a major disaster or emergency.*

11 “(C) *A technical guide that lists and ex-*
12 *plains the costs and benefits of alternatives*
13 *available to a community to mitigate the im-*
14 *pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-*
15 *pare for sequential hazards such as flooding after*
16 *a wildfire.*

17 “(4) *COOPERATION.—A State agency that enters*
18 *into a cooperative agreement under this subsection*
19 *shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior, the*
20 *Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing*
21 *and Urban Development, the Administrator of the*
22 *Small Business Administration, and the Adminis-*
23 *trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency*
24 *in developing a website under this subsection.*

1 “(5) *UPDATES.*—A State agency that receives
2 *funding to establish a website under this subsection*
3 *shall update the website not less than once every 6*
4 *years.*”.

5 **SEC. 10. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

6 *Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
7 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is*
8 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

9 **“SEC. 431. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

10 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 30 days after a dec-
11 *laration by the President that a major disaster exists under*
12 *section 401, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency*
13 *Management Agency shall publish on a website of the Agen-*
14 *cy an interactive web tool displaying the following informa-*
15 *tion with respect to such disaster:*

16 “(1) *The number of applications for assistance*
17 *under section 408, including a description of the*
18 *number of applications for assistance related to hous-*
19 *ing under such section and the number of applica-*
20 *tions for assistance to address other needs under sec-*
21 *tion 408(e).*

22 “(2) *The number of applications for such assist-*
23 *ance that are approved.*

24 “(3) *The number of applications for such assist-*
25 *ance that are denied.*

1 “(4) *A ranked list of the reasons for the denial*
2 *of such applications, including the number of appli-*
3 *cations for each reason for denial.*

4 “(5) *The dollar amount of assistance provided*
5 *pursuant to section 408 to—*

6 “(A) *property owners; and*

7 “(B) *renters.*

8 “(6) *The estimated percentage of residential*
9 *property that was destroyed as a result of the major*
10 *disaster.*

11 “(b) *PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The*
12 *Administrator shall ensure that none of the information*
13 *published under subsection (a) contains the personally iden-*
14 *tifiable information of an applicant.”.*

15 **SEC. 11. FEMA REPORTS.**

16 *Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment*
17 *of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency*
18 *Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on*
19 *Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-*
20 *resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and*
21 *Government Affairs of the Senate a report with respect to*
22 *fiscal year 2016 through the most recent fiscal year ending*
23 *before the date of enactment of this Act, and an annual*
24 *report for any fiscal year beginning on or after the date*
25 *of enactment of this Act, describing—*

1 (1) *the average amount of individual assistance*
2 *and individual and household assistance provided*
3 *under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster*
4 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121*
5 *et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual assist-*
6 *ance and individual and household assistance pro-*
7 *vided under such section for—*

8 (A) *all individuals;*

9 (B) *households;*

10 (C) *individuals and households with an an-*
11 *annual income under 75 percent of the national*
12 *median household income;*

13 (D) *individuals with an annual income*
14 *over 125 percent of the national median house-*
15 *hold income; and*

16 (E) *individuals with an annual income be-*
17 *tween 75 percent and 125 percent of the national*
18 *median household income; and*

19 (2) *an explanation for any factors causing an*
20 *increase in the rate of denial of the assistance de-*
21 *scribed in paragraph (1), if applicable.*

1 **SEC. 12. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-**
2 **SONNEL.**

3 *Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief*
4 *and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amend-*
5 *ed by adding at the end the following:*

6 “(e) *SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-*
7 *SONNEL.—*

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for*
9 *which the President has authorized emergency protec-*
10 *tive measures for an area within the jurisdiction of*
11 *a State, tribal, or local government, the Adminis-*
12 *trator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local gov-*
13 *ernment for costs relating to sheltering emergency re-*
14 *sponse personnel, including individuals that are a*
15 *part of the same predisaster household as such per-*
16 *sonnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-congregate*
17 *settings if the Governor of the State or chief executive*
18 *of the tribal or local government determines that the*
19 *damage or disruption to such area is of such a mag-*
20 *nitude as to disrupt the provision of emergency pro-*
21 *TECTIVE MEASURES WITHIN SUCH AREA.*

22 “(2) *LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—*

23 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator*
24 *may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local gov-*
25 *ernment for the costs of sheltering emergency re-*
26 *sponse personnel under paragraph (1) for such a*

1 *period of time as the Administrator determines*
2 *reasonable based in the individual characteristics*
3 *of and impacts to the affected area, including the*
4 *extent of damage, the availability of alternative*
5 *housing options, the availability of utilities, and*
6 *disruptions to transportation infrastructure.*

7 “(B) *MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSE-*
8 *MENT.—The period of reimbursement under sub-*
9 *paragraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month pe-*
10 *riod beginning on the date on which the incident*
11 *period ends.*

12 “(3) *DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term*
13 *‘emergency response personnel’ means—*

14 “(A) *employees or contracted employees pro-*
15 *viding law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue,*
16 *emergency medical, emergency management, or*
17 *emergency communications services; and*

18 “(B) *elected officials, except members of*
19 *Congress, responsible for the overseeing or direct-*
20 *ing emergency response operations or recovery*
21 *activities.”.*

22 **SEC. 13. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.**

23 *Section 312(b)(4) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster*
24 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.*
25 *5155(b)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(D) *LIMITATION ON USE OF INCOME CRI-*
2 *TERIA.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the*
3 *President may not impose additional income cri-*
4 *teria on a potential grant recipient who has ac-*
5 *cepted a qualified disaster loan in determining*
6 *eligibility for duplications of benefit relief.”.*

7 **SEC. 14. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESS-**
8 **MENTS.**

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the*
10 *United States shall conduct a study on the practices, in-*
11 *cluding the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal*
12 *Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting pre-*
13 *liminary damage assessments for the purposes of providing*
14 *assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-*
15 *aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42. U.S.C.*
16 *5174).*

17 (b) *CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall in-*
18 *clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-*
19 *lowing:*

20 (1) *A comparison of the process and procedures*
21 *used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency*
22 *to complete preliminary damage assessments to the*
23 *process and procedures used by private insurance*
24 *companies following a major disaster.*

1 (2) *A review of training provided to individuals*
2 *conducting preliminary damage assessments.*

3 (3) *A comparison of damage estimates for homes*
4 *owned by individuals above the national median in-*
5 *come to homes owned by individuals at or below the*
6 *national median income.*

7 **SEC. 15. APPLICABILITY.**

8 *The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12*
9 *shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the*
10 *date of enactment of this Act.*

Union Calendar No. 401

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8416

[Report No. 117-560, Part I]

A BILL

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with an amendment

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Committees on Financial Services and Small Business discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed